

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows.

Claims 1-3, 7, 8, 11, 12 and 14-16 are cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter contained therein.

Claim 1. - Claim 14. (Cancelled).

Claim 15. (Previously Amended) A graphite material for use in forming a negative electrode of a lithium ion secondary cell which is capable of occluding or releasing lithium ions, wherein said graphite material has adsorbed or is coated with a layer of surface active material that (1) has not been graphitized by heat treatment and (2) consists essentially of at least one member selected from the group consisting of acetic starch, phosphoric starch, carboxymethyl starch and hydroxyalkyl starch wherein the amount of said surface active material is present in a range of 0.01 to 10.0 wt. % based upon the weight of graphite material.

16. (Previously Amended) A graphite material for use in forming a negative electrode of a lithium ion secondary cell which is capable of occluding or releasing lithium ions, wherein said graphite material has adsorbed or is coated with a layer of surface active material that (1) has not been graphitized by heat treatment and (2) consists essentially of at least one member selected from the group consisting of pullulan and dextrine, wherein the amount of said surface active material is present in a range of 0.01 to 10 wt. % based upon the weight of graphite material.